CLAIMS

1. In combination:

a first tubular element having a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly at a first circumferentially facing surface; and

a second tubular element having a second portion with a second axis, a radially inwardly facing surface, and a second connecting assembly with a second circumferentially facing surface,

the first portion extendable within the second portion so that the radially inwardly facing surface on the second tubular element surrounds the radially outwardly facing surface on the first tubular element,

the first and second tubular elements positionable in a first relative axial position wherein relative movement of the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes between a) a first relative rotational position and b) a second relative rotational position causes the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other,

the first and second connecting assemblies cooperating so that the first and second circumferentially facing surfaces confront each other with the first and

second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position to thereby block relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the second relative rotational position back into the first relative rotational position.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein one of the first and second connecting assemblies comprises a first radially extending projection and the other of the first and second connecting assemblies has a first groove in which the first projection guidingly moves as the first and second tubular elements are changed between the first and second relative rotational positions.

3. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first portion has a first radially outwardly extending projection and the second portion has a first groove in which the first projection guidingly moves as the first and second tubular elements are changed between the first and second relative rotational positions.

4. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the second portion has a first radially inwardly extending projection which extends into the first groove and as the first and second tubular elements are changed from the first relative rotational position into the second relative rotational position the first radially outwardly extending projection and first radially inwardly extending projection

interact so that at least one of a) the first radially outwardly extending projection deforms radially inwardly and b) the first radially inwardly extending projection deforms radially outwardly to allow the first radially outwardly extending projection and first radially inwardly extending projection to move past each other in a circumferential direction to thereby allow the first and second circumferential facing surfaces to confront each other.

5. The combination according to claim 4 wherein the second portion has a second radially inwardly extending projection which extends into the first groove and defines a third circumferentially facing surface facing in the same circumferential direction as the second circumferentially facing surface, the first and second tubular elements repositionable from the first relative rotational position past the second relative rotational position to a third relative rotational position wherein the first and third circumferentially facing surfaces confront each other to thereby block relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the third relative rotational position back into the second relative rotational position, the first and second connecting assemblies cooperating to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other further with the first and second tubular elements in the third relative rotational position than with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position.

6. The combination according to claim 5 wherein the first and second radially inwardly extending projections define a first receptacle therebetween in which the first radially outwardly extending projection extends with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position, the first receptacle dimensioned so that the first radially outwardly extending projection is substantially blocked against movement in opposite circumferential directions within the first groove.

7. The combination according to claim 5 wherein the second tubular element has an axially extending entry groove which is contiguous with the first groove.

8. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the first and second tubular elements are positionable in a second relative axial position wherein relative movement of the first and second tubular elements from the first relative rotational position into the second relative rotational position causes the first and second connecting assemblies to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other further than with the first and second tubular elements in the

first relative axial position and the first and second tubular elements moved from the first relative rotational position into the second relative rotational position.

9. The combination according to claim 8 wherein the second portion has a second groove in which the first projection guidingly moves as the first and second tubular elements are moved from the first relative rotational position into the second relative rotational position with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative axial position.

10. The combination according to claim 9 wherein the first groove has a first axial rise and the second groove has a second axial rise and the first and second axial rises are approximately equal.

11. The combination according to claim 9 wherein the second tubular element has an axially extending entry grove which is contiguous with the first and second grooves.

12. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the first portion has a second radially outwardly extending projection and the second portion has a second groove in which the second radially outwardly extending projection

guidingly moves as the first and second tubular elements are changed between the first and second relative rotational positions.

13. The combination according to claim 12 wherein the first and second radially outwardly extending projections are at substantially diametrically opposite locations on the first portion.

14. The combination according to claim 12 wherein the first and second radially outwardly extending projections are at substantially the same circumferential location on the first portion.

15. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the first radially outwardly extending projection has an elongate shape with a length.

16. The combination according to claim 15 wherein the length of the first radially outwardly extending projection is directed in a circumferential direction at an angle to a plane orthogonal to the second axis.

17. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the radially outwardly facing surfaces on the first tubular element and radially inwardly facing surface on

the second tubular element are relatively dimensioned so that the radially outwardly facing surface and radially inwardly facing surface are urged against each other with a frictional force that is greater with the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position than with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative rotational position.

18. The combination according to claim 1 herein the first and second portions comprise a flexible plastic material.

19. The combination according to claim 1 wherein one of the first and second tubular elements has a fitting for connection to a fluid blower.

20. The combination according to claim 19 in combination with a fluid blower to which the fitting is connected so that fluid propelled by the fluid blower is directed through the first and second tubular elements.

21. A method of joining first and second tubular elements, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first tubular element having a first axis, a first portion with a radially outwardly facing surface and a first connecting assembly;

providing a second tubular element having a second axis, a second portion with a radially inwardly facing surface, and a second connecting assembly;

aligning the first and second tubular elements in a preassembly state with the first and second axes substantially coincident and the first portion adjacent to the second portion;

relatively axially moving the first and second tubular elements from the preassembly state towards each other into a first relative axial position; and

with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position, relatively moving the first and second tubular elements around the first and second axes from a first relative rotational position into a second relative rotational position, and thereby causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate so as to draw the first and second portions axially towards each other with the first and second tubular elements in a second relative axial position, wherein a frictional force generated between the first and second portions is greater than with the first and second tubular elements in the first relative axial position,

wherein the step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to releasably block the first and second tubular elements in the second relative rotational position.

22. The method of joining first and second tubular elements according to claim 21 wherein the step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate to cooperatively releasably block the first and second tubular elements in the second relative position comprises causing circumferentially facing surfaces on the first and second connecting assemblies to confront each other.

23. The method of joining first and second tubular elements according to claim 21 wherein the step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing a projection on one of the first and second connecting assemblies to move in a groove with an axial rise on the other of the first and second connecting assemblies.

24. The method of joining first and second tubular elements according to claim 21 wherein the step of causing the first and second connecting assemblies to cooperate comprises causing a plurality of projections to interact one each with a plurality of grooves each with an axial rise.

25. The method of joining first and second tubular elements according to claim 21 further comprising the step of operatively connecting the tubular element to a fluid blower so that fluid propelled by the fluid blower is directed through the joined first and second tubular elements.